The FAMOUS

HISTORY

OF

UY, EARL of WARWICK.

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CHAP. I.

IN the blessed time of memory, when king Athelstone wore the imperial Diadem, and reigned regent of our English nation, Sir Guy (Warwick's mirror and the world's wonder) was the chief hero and knight of chivalry in that golden age, whose prowess and bold deportment, with his noble valour, became so peerless and excellent, surpassing all his predecessors, that fame's loud trumpet sounded Warwick's praise through the world; by which Jews, Turks and Infidels, trembled at the name of Guy.

But as Mars, the God of battle, was inspired with the amorous beauty of Venus, so our Sir Guy, by no man conquered, was conquered by love, for Phillis the Fair, (so she was called by the vulgar) because of her exquisite beauty and modest behaviour, so abundantly overflowing in her breast, that her graces and her effigies made a perfect sympathy; this bright heavenly star, shined with such lustre, that Guy's poor heart was ravished with her countenance, from whence proceeded etherial darts of amity, directed by Cupid's over-reaching power, that laid our admired champion prostrate to the earth, in adoration of this heavenly Phillis, his earthly goddess, whose beauty was so rare and excellent, that Helena the pride of Greece, might seem a Black-a-moor to her, she being

the faireſt creature under the ſun. This heavenly object to Guy's ſight, which ſhone with ſuch glory and ſplendour from the face of fair Phillis, cauſed numerous contemplations in his love ſick-mind, which are but mere fancies ſpringing from affection, leading the overtaken lover into crooked mazes, labyrinths, and ſeas of troubles; therefore Sir Guy reſolved to make trial of his love deſires, and not to ſtand doating on a woman's beauty, but to purſue the onſet according to Cupid's invitation, by which the game may be won.

Thus reſolved in his mind, he makes his journey towards Warwick caſtle, where Phillis dwelt, being daughter and heireſs to the Lord Robert, Earl of Warwick; having entered the caſtle, Guy much deſired to ſee the jewel of his heart.

The Earl (Phillis's father) hearing of Guy's coming, entertains him with great joy and triumph; after ſome certain time of repoſe, the Earl deſired Guy's good company to recreate themſelves in hunting; but Sir Guy feeling pangs of love beating in his ſhip-wreck'd mind; and ſuch deep impreſſions made in his heart by the enchanting looks of Phillis, feigned himſelf ſick of a contagious diſeaſe, as an anſwer to excuſe what had been requeſted. Lord Robert,

troubled for his well-beloved friend Guy, sent for his own doctor to asswage him of his malady, for his safe recovery; after some serious disputes the doctor told Sir Guy that his body was very dangerous and hard to cure, and without letting of blood there was no remedy. Doctor, said Guy, I know my body is distempered; but you want skill to cure the inward inflamation of my heart; Galen's Herbal cannot quote the flower which I lack for my remedy; but I myself know how my sickness is, both as to the cause and the effects, and therefore, doctor, for your love I am obliged.

The doctor departed, and left Sir Guy in his love-sick passion, sighing to senseless trees and chattering birds, yielding no comfort to appease his love afflictions, but choice cogitations springing in his breast like an overflowing fountain; yet still his drift was now and which way to obtain the flower-preservation of his love-disease; at last, through times procurement, he cast his eyes upon the heavenly face of Phillis, walking in a garden crown'd with golden roses, and odoriferous flowers, herself being queen of this pleasant paradise. Guy resolves to attempt his design, and therefore intreats Cupid to assist him. Teach me, quoth Guy, to woo, to court, and kiss, to dally with

lovers delight; frame my action, my ſpeech, my geſture, that I may be to Phillis as Phillis is to me.

CHAP. II.

WITH ſpeed Guy walks to the garden, being entertain'd by a damſel that waited on fair Phillis, repoſing herſelf in an arbour of pleaſure, whom Guy ſalutes with bended knee, amazed with her love enchanting eye, where Cupid appeared in every corner, as comets do in their ætherial ſtation, ſaying, all-hail, fair Phillis, fair flower of beauty, and jewel of virtue; 'tis love, fair Phillis, which was my conductor, and bound me in the burning Italian fire, where, wreſtling in torments and hope in deſpair, I wait the hour of bliſs, or minute of miſery; celeſtial creature, made in beauty's mould, whom honours, royal dignities do attend, as ſtars to wait upon their queen, be pleaſed to grant and trace my ſuit, as Hero did to Leander; ſo ſhall I think myſelf happy in thy cordial love, otherwiſe fatal, compleated by the decree of deſtiny. I know, ſweet lady, that great princes ſeek you to win thy love, whoſe exquiſite perfection of modeſty might ſeem to grace the mightieſt monarch in the world: yet may they all come ſhort of Guy's real affection, in whom love is pictur'd with

naked truth and honesty; disdain me not for being a steward's son, one of thy father's servants, for love may abound in me to fair Phillis, much more than in any mortal in the world besides.

Phillis interrupted him, and said, cease, bold youth, and leave off this passionate affection, it is doating love that seduces you to such fits of idleness. You are but young and also meanly born, and therefore you may not love and like where you please, love is an idle toy, and feeds your brain with fancies, leading astray every young giddy-headed lover, and, as a phrenzy, operates monthly in the brain, and disturbs the wits with dumpish cogitations: I would not for a world my father should know this passion, and how thou spendest thy time in concealed imagination. Thou art unfit for me, for honor waits on thee, and the princely eagle never catches flies.

Guy thus discomfitted with those hard words of Phillis's, lives like one distracted, and in his melancholy, tore his hair from his head, wringing his hands, and over-whelm'd with torments, continues this love-sick man, resolving to travel through the world to gain the love of Phillis, or death to end his misery.

Long may dame nature frown, whose direful looks make so many ship-wreck'd

hearts in the sea of sorrow; but when her course is run, she wheels about to a posture of amity, and sends a smile to cure the hearts that are wounded with her frowns; by which means Cupid, being the God of love, and vicegerent to his mother's court, issues forth his special warrants, sign'd with a golden dart, and whosoever denies to appear according to the time appointed, must endure the just censure of their will; Cupid knowing his authority, and finding in his record Phillis's obstinacy, straightway solicits her to his mother's court, and because that she should not think that he came only in an idle dream, sent a powerful dart for testimony, presenting to a worthy knight of chivalry, saying, "Fair Phillis, love him, nay thou must love him, for thou cannot withstand my power; this valiant knight, with bold atchievements, shall become so famous in the world, that his renowned actions shall be crowned to everlasting posterity."

When Phillis found herself wounded, she cried "O! pity me, gentle Cupid, solicit for me to thy mother, and I will offer myself as a sacrifice to her altar; Oh! pity her that has been too pitiless, and grace me with thy favourable bow; the queen of love from henceforth I'll adore, resigning all my titles, honors, and dignites, which are unfit for me

let her be graced with them, while I remain a ſervant to her love, will, and pleaſure."

Guy, little dreaming of her ſudden thaw, and wanting the balm of love to apply to his ſores, reſolved to make a ſecond encounter in loves enterprize, expecting nothing but death to be his diſtiny; ſo coming again to his fair Phillis, gives fire with his charge, ſaying, fair lady, I have been arraign'd long ago, and now am come to receive my juſt ſentence from the theatre of love; 'tis life or death, fair Phillis, that I look for, let me not lie languiſhing in deſpair! Give judgment, Oh! my fair one, give judgment! that I may know my fatal doom; a word from thy ſacred lips can cure my bleeding heart, or a frown can doom me to the pit of miſery; how happy are they, ſweet Phillis, that live in love's amity? but threefold miſery attends that lover that lives in hate by his miſtreſs.

Gentle Guy, ſaid ſhe, love is not at my diſpoſing, you know my father's name is great in the nation, and I dare not match without his conſent.

For that, ſweet lady, I make no great doubt but quickly to obtain his love and liking; if martial deeds may win his love and favour, I'll venture through the world with a noble reſolution, let me have thy firſt fair Phillis, and there is no fear of thy

father's wrath to prevent us; it is an old saying, get the good will of a daughter, and her parents love will soon be obtained.

Sir Guy, said Phillis, make thy bold atchievments and noble actions shine abroad as the glorious sun, that all oppressors may tremble at thy high applauded name, and thy suit shall not be denied.

Fair Phillis, said Guy, I ask no more, never did the hound mind more his game than I do my enterprizes: Phillis, farewell, take this joyful kiss as a signet from my heart.

CHAP. III.

THUS noble Guy being at last enlarged from the thraldom of love's cruelty, now arms himself like a knight of chivalry, and prepares for to cross the surging oceans, when happening according to his expectation he soon arrived in the realm of France, where he very joyfully heard of divers matters to be performed in Normandy, which warlike muse did ravish his greedy ears; for the Emperor's fair daughter of Almain, was made a prize for him that won her in the field; fair Blanch (for so she was called) was spread throughout all Christendom; upon

which report the worthies of the world came thither to try their fortune; the golden trumpet ſounds with great joys and triumphs, and the ſtately pamper'd ſteed proudly ſtamp'd upon the ground; and each one there thought him a Cæſar that could abide no equal; kings and princes were there to behold who ſhould be the conqueror, every one thinking that fair Blanch ſhould be his; after deſperate charging with horſe and man, much blood was ſhed, and princes no more valued than vulgar perſons; but our noble Guy appearing in his warlike poſture, and laying about him like

a lion upon the princes; there lay one headleſs; another without a leg or arm, and there

lay a horſe: Guy ſtill, like Hercules, charged deſperately, and killed a German prince, and his horſe under him; Duke Otton vowing revenge upon our Engliſh Champion, gave Guy a freſh aſſault, but his courage ſoon cooled; then Duke Royner would engage our moſt famous Knight, but with as little ſucceſs as the reſt; ſo that no man could encounter Guy any more, by which valour he won the lady in the field as a prize, being the approved conqueror.

The emperor ſent a meſſenger for him, Guy coming into the Emperor's preſence, gave to his Majeſty reverend obedience, and the emperor, as a token of his great affection, gave him his hand to kiſs, and withal reſigned his daughter, the falcon, and the hound, as the maſter prize of his conqueſt. Guy humbly thank'd his Majeſty for his gracious favour, but, for Phillis's ſake, left fair Blanch to her father's tuition, and departed from that graceful court only with other pledges.

Now Guy beginning to meditate upon his long abſence from his fair Phillis, doubting of her proſperity, or that ſhe might too much forget him, becauſe the proverb ſays, Out of ſight out of mind, therefore upon this conſideration, he prepared to go for England, and at laſt arrived at the long-wiſh'd for haven of love, and with this kind of ſalutation greets his beloved

miſtreſs: fair foe, ſaid Guy, I am now come to challenge the lagacies of love according to your laſt promiſe, which was, upon making my name famous by martial deeds, I ſhould be maſter of my beloved miſtreſs; behold fair Phillis, part of my prize which I won in open field, before kings and princes; and ſince this conqueſt I cannot find any but cowards in the world.

Quoth Phillis, worthy knight, I heard of thy winning the lady Blanch, from royal Dukes and Princes, and I am much rejoiced to think Guy ſhould be ſo victorious; but, truly, Guy muſt ſeek out for new adventures.

Guy, ſomewhat diſcomfitted at this anſwer, wiſhes himſelf in the midſt of battles, and taking his leave of fair Phillis, he clad himſelf again in Beilona's arms, and ſpringing now to the heighth of reputation, travell'd towards Sedwin, Duke of Lovian, againſt whom the Emperor of Almain lay in ſege: but as Guy was going on his intended journey, Duke of Otton (whom Guy had diſgraced in battle) hired ſixteen traitors to ſlay him; Guy being ſet upon by theſe rebels, drew his ſword and fought with them for ſome time, until at laſt he ſlew all the traitors according to their deſarts, leaving them to fowls of the air to feed upon.

This ſtorm being thus happily over, Guy comes ſpeedily to the Duke of Lovian, cloſe beleagued roung with Almain's powerful army, and no little reſiſtance did the Duke make againſt the Emperor. Guy cauſed the Lovanians to iſſue forth upon the cowardly Almanias, and made ſuch a bloody ſlaughter amongſt them, that they were much diſheartened; but the emperor gathered new forces and beſieged it again; thinking to ſtarve them out with hunger; but Guy ſtanding upon the walls, threw them victuals in abundance, that the Emperor might ſee they had great ſtore of proviſions; and when Guy perceived that their bodies were better fed than taught, he ſallied out on the Almanias guards, cutting off both man and horſe, that above thirty thouſand were ſlain of the Almanians in theſe two battles, the fields running with purple gore: but Guy got more fame and praiſe in making a perfect league and peace with the Emperor and the Duke, than he did in his former conqueſt, whoſe noble head deſerved to be crowned with trophies of everlaſting memory.

A perfect peace being concluded between thoſe two mighty princes, Guy took a thouſand chriſtians to fight againſt turks, jews, and infidels; and coming into the midſt of battle where thoſe heathens were fighting,

Guy, with his ſoldiers, made a ſlaughter of thoſe infidels; inſomuch that they wonder'd at his great ſucceſs and victory, on which Colbron, a mighty pagan, challeng'd Guy at a ſingle combat; ſo to cutting they went, but our noble Guy, after a long and bloody fight, brought him to the ground; then Mongandour, the giant, went to revenge his brother's wrong, but Guy conquered him, and all the pagan champions, which made them leave the field, and go for ſecurity into the town, where the governor, a blood-thirſty villain, proudly came into Guy's tent, and demanded a duel, ſaying, that he had promiſed his head to a lady; but when they ruſhed together deſperately, Guy being too courageous for his valour, Eſkelant the governor, fled away to ſave his head upon his ſhoulders; Guy, meaning to crown his conqueſt with more grace, challenged the mighty Soldian, the pagans' chief; and as the reſt were ſlain by his conquering hand, ſo the mighty Soldian was brought to the ground, and perceiving his life departing, in diſdain to chriſtianity he flung whole handfuls of blood at Guy. Thus were the pagans conquered by our brave Engliſh champion.

CHAP. IV.

NOW Guy travelling to the Duke of Lovian, met by way the Earl Terry, ſet upon by ſixteen traitors in a wood, who had taken away his lady; Guy aſked of the Earl which way the villains were gone; at laſt Guy overtook them, fell upon thoſe bloody traitors and kill'd eight of them preſently; the lady ſeeing ſo much blood ſhed, deſired Guy to ſpare their lives that were left: and according to her requeſt he did, reſtoring the lady to her own huſband.

Now as Guy, Terry and Oyle, went about the woods, they heard a moſt terrible noiſe, which very much affrighted thoſe friends and lovers, at laſt they met a friend, who told Earl Terry, that Duke Otton had ſtraightly begirt his father about the caſtle, and had threatened to pull down the town about his ears. No ſooner noble Guy heard of Duke Otton, (that great traitor) but he and the Lord poſted thither, and freed the caſtle immediately; and Guy in open field ſlew Duke Otton hand to hand, but his dying words of repentance moved Guy's heart to remorſe and pity. But as Guy returned through a deſert, he met a furious boar that had ſlain many chriſtians; Guy man-

fully drew his sword, and the brutish boar gaped with his dreadful tusks, intending to devour our noble champion. But Guy quickly cool'd his courage, and kill'd the mightiest boar that ever mortal beheld.

Now noble Guy is bound to England, and arriving in his native country, news came to King Athelstone of Guy's arrival, being at the famous city of York, where after due reverence to his majesty, the king told Guy of a mighty dragon that had destroyed both men, women, and children, and annoying grievously the county of Northumberland, and many Knights had engaged their lives to slay this deadly monster, but all were killed, and none could kill him. Guy desiring to have a ghide, which was accordingly granted him, so coming to the dragon's cave, out starts this hideous monster, whose eyes did burn like flaming fire, and Guy charged him most desperately, but this terrible monster bit his lance in two like a reed; with that Guy drew his sword, and cut such gashes in the dragon's side, that the blood issued out of his venomous carcase; wounding every part about him, that down came Cerebus to the ground: Noble Guy cut off the monster's head, and gave it to the king as a present, whose direful counte-

nance, being dead, would affright the living, and, for Guy's praise and memory, King Athelstone caused the picture of the dragon, being thirty feet in length, to be wrought in cloth of Arras, and hung up in Warwick castle for an everlasting monument.

After all those bold atchievement performed by him, Phillis hearing of Guy's fame, and how he killed that ugly dragon, came and met him at Lincoln, where after some salution embraced each other in love's purity; the happy day of marriage was appointed betwixt noble Guy and fair Phillis, King Athelstone and his Queen being invited to that noble nuptial, with all the princes, nobles, and barons of the land; which marriage was celebrated with much joy and triumph.

No sooner was the nuptial compleated, but Lord Robert, Phillis's father, dies, and leaves to his son Guy all his Earldom and Lordships; and the king, to grace Sir Guy for all his worthy actions, created him Earl of Warwick, in rank and quality of all Nobles of the land.

CHAP. V.

IN the height of Guy's glory, being thus exalted to his father's dignities, conscience binding him to relent of his former sins, and his youthful time spent in behalf of a woman; therefore Guy resolved to be converted into another posture, and, like a pilgrim, intended to travel into the Holy Land. Phillis, perceiving the sudden alteration, enquired of her Lord what was the cause of this his p ssion? Ah! said he, I have spent much time in honouring thee, and to win thy favour, but never spared one moment for my soul's health, in serving, my Maker, Phillis, tho' much grieved understanding his determination, strove not to oppose his will, but with exchanging their rings, and melting kisses, Guy

departed like a ſtranger from his own habitation, taking neither money nor ſcrap with him, but cold herbs and roots ſuch as the fields afforded; was the chiefeſt diet, vowing never to fight but in a juſt cauſe.

Guy's intended journey was to go to Jeruſalem, but travelling many long and tedious miles, he at length met with an aged man oppreſſed with ſorrow, for a maſterly giant had taken fifteen of his ſons from him, and kept them in ſtrong captivity: Guy, like a pilgrim, demanded, in love of the old man, the cauſe of his grief, which Guy underſtanding borrowed the old man's ſword and went to the caſtle gate where the giant dwelt, who coming to the door, aſked Guy what was his buſineſs to come thither, or how durſt he, quoth Amarant, for he was ſo called, knock ſo boldly at the gates? For this I vow by all my gods, to ſplit thy brains aſunder. Guy laughing to ſcorn this mighty giant, ſaid, Sirrah, it ſeems you are very quarrelſome? come thou dog-hound, I have a ſword ſhall maintain my cauſe, which has hewed ſuch lubbers as thou art often aſunder; and therewithal Guy laid about the giant's ſhoulders with a keen and maſſy blade, that the giant bled abundantly; and Amarant heaving

up his club in the air, thought to have killed him quickly, but noble Guy was

nimble, cutting upon the giants pillars, insomuch that he began to faint, desiring a little respite, to quench his vehement thirst, which our noble Guy granted. Amarant having slacked his drought, they fell to it pell mell; yet all the giant's blows fell in vain, who being much enraged thereat, he flung his club at Guy, and beat him down, and e'er he could recover got up his club again; but in the end Guy kill'd this treble-headed dog, and releas'd divers captives that had been in thraldom many years: some were even starved to

death, some hung up by their thumbs, some were hung about the middle, others were hanging with their heads downwards, which sweet deliverance caused much joy and thankfulness; but Guy delivered both the castle and the keys to the old man and his fifteen sons, desiring no wrong might be impelled upon women.

Gaining this freedom for the captives, Guy went on his intended journey, and coming to a grave, found a dead scull all worm-eaten, with which Guy conversed, speaking to the scull, and making answer for the head, "Perhaps, said he, thou wert a Prince or mighty Monarch, a King, a Duke, a Lord? But the Beggar and the King must all to the earth; and therefore man had need to remember his dying hour; perhaps thou mayest be a Queen, Dutches, or lady, garnish'd with beauty; but now thou art but poor worms meet, lying in the grave, a sepulchre for all creatures."

And when Guy was in his repenting solitude, Phillis, like a mourning widow, clothed herself in sable attire, to expel her inward grief and sorrow, vowing chastity in the absence of her well-beloved husband; which pattern of sobriety may be crowned to everlasting memory, for her whole delight was in divine me-

ditations, heavenly consolation, praying for the welfare of her well-beloved Lord.

Thus Phillis spent the remnant of her life in sorrow for her dear Lord; and to shew her humility, she sold her jewels and costly robes, with which she used to grace King Athelstone's Queen, and gave the money freely to the poor; and in this virtuous act she did excell all the ladies in the land, for none but Phillis won the hearts of the people; she relieved the lame and blind, the widow and the fatherless, and all those who came to crave alms, she gave it them freely, building a large hospital for aged and sick people, that they might be comforted in their weak conditions, and according to the rule, she laid up her treasure in Heaven, which will be repaid again in life everlasting.

Whilst Phillis was so excellent in her graces, Guy, her beloved husband, travelled thro' many lands and nations; at last in his weari'd journey, he met with Earl Terry his sworn brother, who had been exil'd from this nation by a masterless traitor; Guy bid him not be dismayed, for said he, Earl Terry, I'll venture my life for your restoration to former honour and dignities. The Earl thanked him very courteously, so walking together against Terry's enemy, Guy challenged him into the field, and couragiously slew the traitor hand to hand, and set the Earl in his former places of honour.

CHAP. VII.

THE Danes having intelligence of King Athelſtone's being at Wincheſter, they drew all their forces thither; and ſeeing there was no means to win the city, the bloody Danes ſent a ſummons to King Athelſtone, deſiring that an Engliſhman might combat with a Dane, and that ſide to loſe all that had their champion killed.

Upon this, mighty Colbron ſingles himſelf from the Danes, and entered into Hide-mead, near Wincheſter, breathing out venomous words, calling the Engliſh cowardly dogs, and that he would make their carcaſes meat for crows and ravens. Is now, ſaid Colbron, all your Engliſh courage become ſo timorous that you dare not gſiht? What mighty boaſting hath there been in foreign nations of theſe Engliſh cowards, as if they had done deeds of wonder, who now like foxes hide their heads, ſaying, it is good to ſleep in a whole ſkin.

Guy hearing the proud diſdain of Colbron, could no longer forbear, but preſently goes to King Athelſtone, and begs the combat on his knee, at the King's hand; the King liking well the courage of the pilgrim (ſo Guy was habited) he bid him go on and proſper, ſo he walked forth of the north gate into Hide-mead, where Colbron, the Danes champion was treading at every ſtep two yards of ground.

When Colbron eſpied Guy in his palmer's weed, the giant diſdain'd him with much ire and ſcorn, ſaying, Art thou the beſt champion that England can afford for the honour of a king, crown, and country?

Giant, quoth Guy, your words are tedious, and it is uncivil for profeſt champions to rail, filling the air with idle words; I have a ſword that ſhall be my orator, and make deep impreſſions in thy blood. No longer ſtood they to parley, but with great vigour and courage they fought manfully, but Guy ſo cut up the lubbard's carcaſe, that he bled moſt deſperately; Colbron being moved to choler,

was mighty vehement against our champion, and his he
could have eaten him up at a mouthful, wanting for
break his sword with his knotted club, but he was so n
ble, that in vain Colbron struk, for every blow ligh
upon the ground: Guy still laved upon him like a drag
which gave some encouragement to the English; but C
bron in his combat began to faint, and bid Guy sue
mercy at his hands, and to leave fighting. No cowa
said he, I'll have thy life, or else I'll loose my own, for
King has ventured his crown on my behalf, therefore kn
traitor, I am resolved to fight while breath remains in
body. With that he gave Colbron a mighty stroke, wh
made a wide wound in his flesh, that corrupted blood iss
out, the next blow brought him to the ground, which
English seeing, they shouted with much joy and accla
tions, that peals of echoes rung in the air. After
conquest won by the English, the Danes all departed
their own country.

King Athelstone sent for his champion to honour hi
but he refused it, saying, my Liege, I am mortal, a
tehrefore set the vain world at defiance. But by the e
nest request of the King, and upon promise of concealme
Guy told the King his name, which so much rejoiced
heart, that he embraced his worthy champion; but G
took leave of his Soverign, and as a Stranger went to t
fields and made himself a cave, living very pensive and
litary; and his dying hour drawing on, he sent a messeng
with a ring to Phillis, which she seeing, came with
speed to her beloved Lord, where with weeping joy th
embraced each other, Guy departed this life in her tend
arms, and was honourably interred. His widow takin
grief for the death of her husband, died within fifteen day
after him: But King Athelstone, to grace the everlastin
memory of Guy, caused many monuments to be erected i
Warwick Castle, that after ages might speak of the nob
fame and honour of GUY EARL OF WARWICK.

FINIS.